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UNCLAS PARIS 004585

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/CIP, TIMOTHY FINTON
USTR FOR JONATHAN MCHALE AND PAUL NEUREITER

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: FRENCH RESPONSE TO LICENSING CONDITIONS IN THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

REF: STATE 114687

¶1. Econ Officer contacted France's Electronic Communications and Postal Services Authority (ARCEP) on June 22 to obtain information requested in reftel regarding French licensing practices for fixed services.

¶2. On June 28, ARCEP Director for International Affairs Anne Lenfant responded by explaining that, according to French law (Article L. 33-1 m of the Code of Posts and Electronic Communications), licensing fees cover administrative costs. More specifically, she said, licensing fees are as follows: 10,000 Euros for regional offers within France; 20,000 Euros for national offers, and 80,000 euros for significant market power operators. There are no administrative fees related to experimentations.

¶3. As for the other two questions raised in reftel, ARCEP confirmed that there are no requirements for capitalization, bonding, or built-out investment.

WOLFF